

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 932 - HB 1503**

March 29, 2011

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Deletes requirement that parties wait three years after a settlement of a workers' compensation claim before the parties can settle any future medical benefits. Authorizes a judge or workers' compensation specialist to terminate the right to future medical benefits in certain cases. Defines rules for communication between parties and doctors who have treated the employee. Defines "injury" and "personal injury" for purposes of workers' compensation claims, excluding diseases of any kind except when naturally and unavoidably resulting from the employment; adds mental injury to the definition.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Decrease State Expenditures – \$83,000/Risk Management Fund**

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Commerce and Insurance and the Secretary of State, there will be no fiscal impact on the Departments.
- According to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the number of employees requesting assistance from the Department for workers' compensation claims should remain constant. As a result, no fiscal impact to state government.
- According to the Department of Treasury, this bill will provide defense to deny some carpal tunnel syndrome claims. The Department estimates a decrease of 10 claims per year with an average compensation of \$8,300 for a total decrease in state expenditures from the Risk Management Fund of \$83,000.
- Any decrease in expenditures for local governments to reimburse the state for workers' compensation claims will be not significant.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "James W. White".

James W. White, Executive Director

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